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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

HUMAN sacrifices still continue on the west coast of Africa, an English expedition from Old Calabar to Ohumbia having lately reached its destination just as the sacrifices were taking place and after three victims

INCLUDING the channel islands and the Isle of Man, the cultivated acre-age of the United Kingdom is 47,-919,880, as compared with 47,979,898 acres last year. In England the decline is from 24,897,562 to 24,880,717. In Wales there is an increase from 2,855,972 to 2,856,955, and in Scotland an increase from 4,890,175 to 4,892,183, while in Ireland there has been a fall from 15,208,414 to 15,161,-925 acres.

RECENT statistics of the French army seem to show that there are serious defects in the system of compulsory elementary education in force in France. Out of 348,000 young men who drew lots for the conscription last year no fewer than 20,000 could neither read nor write. and a further number of 55,000 could only just read and write—that is to say, were practically illiterate.

GUATEMALA and Mexico have become reconciled after a narrow escape from war. The patriotism and pugnacity of the dangerous elements of the population on each side were so aroused that the least mistake in diplomacy would have precipitated violence, through which Guatemala might have been ruined and Mexico disgraced. At the present stage of civilization the war scare is highly

An important decision has just been pronounced in Vermont as to engagement rings. A young man sued to recover one that he had given to a young woman, who, after accept-ing the ring, repudiated the engage-ment. The judge decided that it must be returned or else the recip-ient must fulfill the conditions under which it was presented. The Eng-lish courts some years ago decided that an engagement ring is not re-coverable under any circumstances.

DR. WILLIAM R. HARPER, president of the University of Chicago, appears to possess some of the characteristics of a prodigy. He entered Muskingum college, in Ohio, at the tender age of 10 and was graduated at 14. Then he went to Yale and was only 19 when he received his Ph. D. from that college—an age at which most students are sophomores. Dr. Har-per is now 89. The university of which he is the head has an endowment of \$4,000,000 and has \$600,000 to spend this year.

SEVERAL of the Standist conscripts in Russia have refused to take the oath on entering the army. These Russian Quakers, as they are called, are willing to make a solemn promise that they will serve the czar loyally, but they will not take an oath. Nor have they any objection to serve in the army other than the natural objection entertained by most Russian peasants. The czar, who is giving vidence of an autocratic temper, is expected to discipline some of the leaders for their stubbornness in this respect.

The Evangelist says that the largest cross in the world now stands in Drake's bay, North America. Three hundred and fourteen years ago the celebrated Sir Francis Drake landed in this bay, and his chaplain. Francis Fletcher by name, preached the very first English sermon ever a hind foot. Frequently heard in that region. To commemorate this event Bishop Nichols, of Childs caused a large stone cross to be erected on the spot, a cliff standing 300 feet above the sea. The cross is fifty-seven feet high, of blue sandstone; several of the stones in it are larger than the largest stone in the pyramid of Cheops. This spien-did monument can be seen far and wide, and is literally a sermon in

the chase," says A. S. Trude, the will even gnaw his foot off to well known lawyer, of Chicago. "And every fall I steal away into the wilds means a rarity in the woods where of Wyoming, away out in the Sho-shone mountains, and hunt the stately elk. Last season my party killed several, three falling to my gun. I believe in killing only to supply the necessities of the camp for meat, and abominate the practice of slaughtering them merely to see them drop at the crack of a Winchester. A New Yorker by the name of Thompson, who goes into the same territory every season, is a chief sinner in this respect, and last year was responsible for the death of this yearsh of these for the death of thirty-eight of these fine animals, a wanton destruction which, if not checked, will soon make the elk as scarce as the buffalo."

Or the meat consuming civilized nations of the world the United States head the list with 120 pounds yearly for each head of population, or about 5 ounces a day. Great Britain follows closely with a consumption of 110 pounds yearly for each head of population. Germany exceeds this average, and promises to lead in the near future all the nations in its consumption of meat. The people of Berlin exceed all other civilized nations in the quantity which they consume per capita—2 1-2 pounds daily. In addition to other fiesh they absorb that of about 7,000 horses annually. This enormous consumption of ment is considered the reason why Berlin people are so susceptible to plood poisoning. Paris indulges in a daily consumption of nine ounces for each individual. France at large is credited with sixty-six pounds per capita per annum. The average of Portugal is lower than that of any other civilized nation - twenty pounds of meat for each head of

Many important bridge projects throat. are coming to a head, and that for the Hudson at New York assumes the use of no fewer than six tracks. The older New York and Brooklyn structure is in reality two bridges hung side by side and braced to-

nected links, or are formed of parallel wires or twisted rope wire. To obtain the widest span possible the weight of the cable must be a minimum es compared with its carrying capacity. Steel in the form of wire has a minimum strength more than double its maximum strength in the form of bars that would be suitable Attorneys and Counselors for the construction of a suspension chain. A wire cable can be stretched about two and one-half times as far as a steel chain before being broken under like conditions. The cables of the Brooklyn bridge have 5,400 wires in them. The cables of the Cincinnati bridge have a diameter of 19 Stock Exchange Building, TIRAM H. CODY. ARTHUR B. CODY. HOPE REED CODY. nati bridge have a diameter of 12 inches, and each contains 5,200 No. 9 wires. There is a practical limit to the number of wires that can be united in a cable. The number suggested for the Hudson bridge is

6,000 parallel steel wires, No. 8

THE managers of the railroads

running into Chicago are determined

gauge.

to stop gambling and drinking among their men. There is no doubt that much of the encouragement given to the mobs during the inte strike came from trainmen who spent their time off duty in stock yard saloons. The Chicago and Alton was the first comthey would be discharged if seen going into either saloons or gambling houses when on or off duty. The same regulation was afterward made by the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, and the Chicago and Great Western has gone a step further and for idden its men to board at places to which a bar is attached. This rule is in the interest of economy as well as that of good morals. It is the custom for keepers of boarding houses near the railroad yards to furnish trainmen with meals in exchange for orders on the company, which, if bona fide, are always honored before payment of the men's wages. Where places it was noticed that their claims often came to more than the sums due the men for wages. Great Western is therefore killing two birds with one stone. It is said that the new rules have the approval of the employes generally.

When a Bear is Trapped.

When a bear finds himself trapped and his first tornado like burst of fury is over he turns all his energy and effort toward getting away from the spot as far and fast as he can and to freeing himself from the trap. A bear is always caught by his foot, most frequently a fore foot. A bear trap itself is a ponderous iron thing. as much as a man would care to carry far, the jaws frequently set with long, sharp teeth which bury themselves in each side of a bear's leg. Then a heavy clog is always attached to the trap by a strong chain, the dragging of which by the bear through the woods delays his progress by catching under roots and logs and other obstructions. Sometimes the bear will carry the heavy elog and walk on his hind feet, but this is a method of travel which he cannot maintain long and is slow at best. The bear seems to know that his trapping is but the prelude to pursuit by hunters and dogs, and he leaves nothing undone to free himself from the hindering trap. He will climb trees, impeded as he is, fasten the clog in a crotch or around a limb, and jump from a tree in a desperate endeavor to tear his foot loose from the trap. This is a well known effort of the bear when the trap is on ceeds in freeing himself in this way. as traps are found in trees, with California, and the late George W. bear's foot, or a portion of one, held in its jaws. Often, though, the hold of the trap on the leg is too firm for even the weight of the bear and the impulse of his fall to overcome, and it has not been an uncommon thing for the bear to be found hanging dead from his cruel imprisonment If the trap is on a fore foot the bear will pound it on a rock with tremen-"I am an enthusiastic follower of feat in which he does not always fail: means a rarity in the woods where bears abound. The bones of a bear are soft and spongy and do not break like the hard bones of a deer A bullet striking the bone of a deer will shatter and splinter it, or break it square in two, while a bullet will pass through the bone of a bear without crippling him in the least.

Is a Vicient Death Painful?

Severe injuries to the body are sel dom very painful at first. The severity of the nervous shock seems to paralyze the nerve center, where consciousness of pain is situated, and in fatal cases there is often no sense of pain, even when death is delayed a day or two. In such cases it may be supposed that the shock not only paralyzes, but even destroys the nerve center. It may be compared to a lightning flash along the telegraph wires, which, although of the same nature as the electric telegraph current, yet is so intense as to destroy the receiving instruments, so that no subsequent messages can be received. In some fatal injuries the nerve that would carry the pain to the brain is destroyed, and such accidents are almost painless. Our sense of pain is greatest in the skin and deep wounds are therefore not more painful than shallow ones. In surgical operations the skin incision is often the most painful part, and those who have been run through the body say they were conscious only of something cold passing through them, with just a prick at the points of entry and exit of the weapon. On the other hand, some fatal in juries are very painful, especially those that interfere with breathing. such as injuries to the chest and

Youth Recalled.

"I don't know how they get them, said a father, " but there appear to be certain standard questions that gether, the promenade being an extra | are asked over and over again by the weight on the interior cables. It has a 15 5-8 inch cable on each side; in the estimates for the new work a cable of 21 1-2 inches diameter is spoken of. These supporting cables of long bridges are made of steel, and are either chains composed of contact that question."

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Distant Relatives and Bervants In-cluded in the Sacred Circle.

The family tie is sacred in Germany. and extends also to the larger family. says a writer in the Omaha Bee. Members of the same name, especially among the nobility, meet from time to time for conferences (Familientag). and have generally friends to assist the poorer members of the family. The German is sure to find an open hand and house wherever he meets even a distant relative. The relation of children to their parents, though it has lost much of the old rigidity, is still one of respect, and this is certainly a good foundation for the state, as Luther in his admirable small catechism explains the fifth commandment to refer also to teachers, employes, and all in authority. Also grown-up children respect parental authority. As long as father or mother lives the house remain the center of the family,

also for the married children. But the household does not only com prise the family, the servants are part of the German home. Though also in this respect much of the good old habit is done away with in the present age, especially in the larger towns, where the family does not occupy, like in the United States and England, a house of its own, but only a flat, with sometimes very insufficient accommodations for the servants, yet we find

many who look back on a service of forty or fifty years in the same family The great day for the German home is Christmas Eve, when all the house hold gathers round the fir tree with its shining lights. The German Christ mas tree, which has now found its way into many other countries, is a very old institution, and deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. Even the buy a tree. Wherever Germans are together at Christmas the tree must not be wanting. The writer of these lines remembers a Christmas spent on the Atlantic on one of the North German Lloyd steamers. The weather was very rough, but the Christmas tree was nevertheless lighted. People will remember to their oldest ages the joyful excitement of their childhood, when the bell of the father called them into the room where the presents were laid out for them under the lighted tree. Also the servants are called in and receive their presents. Even in houses where there are no children the Christmas tree is lighted, and wealthy people often invite the children of one or more poor families to give them presents on the day which commemorates that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, everybody wishes to show love to his neighbor.

STAGE-COACH DAYS. How People Traveled in the Middle

States Forty Years Ago. Forty-two years ago New Year's day the last through United States mail arrived by stage coach from Baltimore at Wheeling, W. Va., says the Baltimore Sun. John E. Reeside, now a resident of Baltimore, was in charge of the stage which made the last trip, arriving in Wheeling New Year's day.

Mr. Reeside's father, the late James Reeside, was a pioneer in this travel. The son entered the same business when about 15 years old, and continued extending stage-coach lines westward until they reached the Pacific coast. Railroads followed in the wake of the coach lines and took away their business of carrying passengers and

Probably the most interesting of Mr. Iteeside's experiences were in connection with the National road, or "old pike," projected by the national government in 1806. This road extended from Cumberland, Md., westward over the Alleghanies to the Ohio River. It was the main artery of travel for passenger, mall, and freight traffic until the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad took its place. From Baltimore to Cumberland the

structed by private persons and com-"The stage-coach headquarters in Raltimore," said Mr. Reeside, "were at old Barnum's hotel and the Fountain inn, which stood on the site of the Carrollton hotel. The coaches used were

open at the front and sides, with seats or eleven passengers beside the driver. All seats faced the front of the vehicle. Saddlebags, which were carried in that time for baggage, were hung on the posts supporting the top of the stage. A small rack behind for trunks was seldom used. A tin lantern, with a tallow dip. placed over the driver, was used at

"Four strong horses drew these coaches, with relays every ten or twelve miles at stages or stations, from which probably came the name of the vehicle. The average rate of fare was 6 cents a mile. At first travel was only in the daytime, with stops over night at the numerous excellent inns or taverns which lined the road. "One of the great obstructions to

travel alone the road were large droves of cattle, sheep and hogs being driven from Western plains to Eastern markets. The cattle especially, with their long horns pointed toward the oncoming coach, made a formidable obstruction.

"The 272 miles from Baltimore to Wheeling were first made in four days, with nightly stops. The best stageconch time was afterward reduced to fifty hours by the old Eclipse line, established by James Reeside."

Mr. Reeside is probably the only surviving stage-coach contractor of national prominence. He is a native of Cumberland, Samuel Lurman, said to be the oldest living stage-coach driver, now lives in Cumberland.

EVOLUTION EVEN HERE.

The Dog's Bark Has Become More Expressive as His Culture Advanced.

The most curious imitations which we find in dogs is as to the measure of expression to which they have attained. Among the savage forefathers poor man would spare his last cent to of the modern dog the characteristics of all their utterances was, to a great extent, involuntary, and once begun the outery was continued in a mechanical manner.

The effect of advancing culture on the dog, however, has been gradually to decrease this ancient undifferentiated mode of expression by howling and yelping, and to replace it by the much more speech-like bark, says a writer in Scribner's Magazine. There is some doubt whether dogs possessed by savages have the power of uttering the sharp, specialized note which is so characteristic of the civilized form of

their species. It is clear, however, that if they have the power of thus expressing themselves they use it but rarely. On the other hand, our high-bred dogs have to a great extent lost the power to express themselves in the ancient way. Many of our breeds appear to have become incapable of ululating. There is no doubt but the change in the mode of expression greatly increases the capacity of our dogs to set forth their states of

mind. If we catch a high-bred dog-one with a wide range of sensibilities which we may may find in breeds which have long been closely associated with man -we may readily note five or six varieties of sound in the bark, each of which is clearly related to a certain state of mind. That of welcome, of fear, of rage, of doubt, and of pure fun are almost always perfectly distinct to the educated ear, and this, although the observer may not be acquainted with the creature. If he knows him well he may be able to distinguish various other intonations-those which express impatience, and even an element of sorrow. This last note verges toward a howl.

Traveler-"The houses in some of the ancient cities had walls ten feet thick." Mr. Brickrow (nervously)-"I presume some of the neighbors were musical."-New York Weekly.

